

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method for separating metal and inorganic particles from a metal-inorganic particle composite material generated because of dispersion of inorganic particles in a base metal; comprising the steps of:

heating said metal-inorganic particle composite material into a melt;

throwing flux into said melt and bringing said flux into contact with said melt sufficiently;

leaving said melt at rest to separate said melt into an upper layer containing said inorganic particles and a lower layer composed of said metal; and

recovering said upper layer and said lower layer individually.

2. (original) A method for separating metal and inorganic particles from a metal-inorganic particle composite material according to Claim 1, wherein said flux is in a range of from 0.2 parts to 2.0 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said metal-inorganic particle composite material.

3. (canceled)

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/062,411

4. (previously presented) The method for separating metal and inorganic particles from a metal-inorganic particle composite material according to claim 1, wherein said upper layer is recovered by baking said flux.